

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
(CENTRAL DIVISION)**

In re:

SOLAR WOLF ENERGY, INC.,

Debtor.

Chapter 7

Case No. 22-40693-CJP

**TRUSTEE’S LIMITED OBJECTION TO CLAIM NO. 1-1 OF
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
(ON BEHALF OF ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS)**

To the Honorable Christopher J. Panos, United States Bankruptcy Court:

NOW COMES Joseph H. Baldiga, the duly appointed Chapter 7 trustee (the “Trustee”) of the bankruptcy estate (the “Estate”) of Solar Wolf Energy, Inc. (the “Debtor”), and, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 502, Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3007, and MLBR 3007-1, hereby objects (the “Objection”) to Claim No. 1-1¹ of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (on behalf of Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) (the “MA DOR”). The MA DOR has asserted a claim of \$76,262.13 secured by all of the Debtor’s property (the “MA DOR Claim”). As discussed below, the Trustee seeks confirmation by this Court that the lien asserted by the MA DOR Claim does not extend to the Estate Funds (as defined below) that will be available for distribution by the Trustee.²

In support hereof, the Trustee states as follows:

¹ The claim number used in this Objection corresponds with the claim number assigned in the claims register prepared to date by the Clerk’s Office in this case (the “Claims Register”).

² The Trustee is not seeking re-classification of Claim No. 1-1 asserted by the MA DOR, but a determination by this Court that the purported lien asserted by the MA DOR Claim does not extend to the Estate Funds that will be available for distribution by the Trustee.

I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

A. Bankruptcy Case Background.

1. On September 23, 2022, the Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-1532 (the “Bankruptcy Code”).

2. On September 26, 2022, the United States Trustee appointed Joseph H. Baldiga Chapter 7 trustee of the Debtor’s bankruptcy case, and he continues to serve as such.

B. The MA DOR’s Claim.

3. On September 24, 2022, this Court established December 2, 2022 as the last date by which all entities, other than governmental units, were permitted to file proofs of claim (the “General Bar Date”). In addition, the Court established the deadline for governmental units to file proofs of claim as March 22, 2023 (the “Government Bar Date”).

4. On October 19, 2022, this Court entered a Notice to Added Creditors establishing December 28, 2022 as the last date by which added creditors were permitted to file proofs of claim (the “Added Creditor Bar Date”; together with the General Bar Date and Governmental Bar Date, the “Bar Dates”).

5. At this time, the Bar Dates have expired.

6. The Trustee has reviewed Claim No. 1-1 filed by the MA DOR and has determined that Claim No. 1-1 is objectionable as set forth herein.

II. OBJECTION

7. The MA DOR filed a proof of claim which asserts a secured claim in the amount of \$76,262.13, listed on the Claims Register as Claim No. 1-1 (i.e., the MA DOR Claim).

8. The basis for the claim is unpaid liabilities related to the Debtor’s violation of certain wage and labor law provisions set forth in M.G.L. chs. 149 and 151. The MA DOR asserts that: (a) pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 149, § 27(c)(7) such liabilities are considered to be a tax

due and owing to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and (b) pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 62C, § 50, the claim is fully secured by liens in all of the Debtor's property.

9. The supporting documentation attached to Claim No. 1-1 includes a brief summary of the claim and a statement itemizing the calculation of the amounts due and owing, as follows: (a) taxes for the period ending May 19, 2022 in the amount of \$59,366.78, plus interest in the amount of \$3,308.29, for a total of \$62,675.07; and (b) taxes for the period ending June 10, 2022 in the amount of \$13,003.51, plus interest in the amount of \$583.55, for a total of \$13,587.06.

10. The Trustee objects to the allowance of Claim No. 1-1 on the limited basis that the MA DOR lien does not extend to the Estate Funds (defined below) available for distribution by the Trustee. The only funds held by the Estate and available for distribution are comprised of the following: (a) funds currently held by the Estate in the amount of \$35,000.00 derived from the Trustee's settlement of certain avoidance claims against SunPower Corporation and approved by this Court on May 16, 2023 [*Dkt. No. 333*] (the "Avoidance Claim Settlement Funds"); and (b) the sum of \$28,217.79 (net of auctioneer fees and expenses in the aggregate amount of \$9,332.21) paid to the Estate resulting from the Trustee's public auction sale (the "Public Auction Sale") of the Estate's right, title and interest in seven (7) motor vehicles (the "Sale Assets") and approved by this Court on December 2, 2022 (the "Sale Order") [*Dkt. No. 116*] (the "Sale Proceeds"). The Avoidance Claim Settlement Funds and the Sale Proceeds are referred to together herein as the "Estate Funds".

11. Bankruptcy avoidance claims are not subject to the MA DOR's prepetition lien and therefore the MA DOR lien does not extend to the Avoidance Claim Settlement Funds. 11 U.S.C. §552. See, e.g., In re Cabral, 2012 WL 5387684 (Bankr. D. Mass. 2012); In re Lowenstein, 361 B.R. 326 (Bankr. D. Mass. 2007); In re Soares, 380 B.R. 109 (Bankr. D. Mass. 2007) (cases determining that pre-petition lien of the United States did not attach to settlement

funds obtained in settlement of avoidance actions); In re Ball, 2004 WL 909441 (Bankr. W.D. Va. 2004) (holding that IRS's challenged lien did not attach to settlement proceeds paid from spendthrift trust controlled by debtor's family members).

12. With respect to the Sale Proceeds, prior to the Public Auction Sale, the Trustee reached out to the MA DOR and the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") regarding their respective purported liens on the Sale Assets and the proposed Public Auction Sale. Both the MA DOR and IRS agreed to not oppose the proposed sale provided that (a) they each receive \$2,500.00 of the proceeds generated by the Public Auction Sale in satisfaction of their respective liens on the Sale Assets and (b) their liens remain in place and unaltered vis-à-vis all other assets of the Debtor. As a result, the MA DOR and the IRS effectively consented to the Public Auction Sale free and clear pursuant to Bankruptcy Code § 363(f)(2).

13. Pursuant to the Sale Order, the Trustee paid each of the MA DOR and the IRS the amount of \$2,500.00 from the proceeds generated from the Public Auction Sale in satisfaction of their respective liens on the Sale Assets. The Sale Order further provides that the DOR's and IRS's liens shall remain in place and unaltered with respect to all other assets of the Debtor.

14. In light of the above, the Trustee objects to the allowance of Claim No. 1-1 as a secured claim with respect to the Estate Funds.

15. To the extent that the MA DOR has a lien in property belonging to the Debtor, other than with respect to the Estate Funds, the MA DOR's lien shall remain in place and the DOR may look to its collateral to satisfy its claim.

III. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

16. The Trustee reserves the right to expand or modify the basis of this Objection and to file additional claim objections as he determines necessary.

WHEREFORE, the Trustee respectfully requests that the Court enter an Order:

- A. Determining that any lien comprising whether or not the secured claim filed by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (on behalf of Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) as Claim No. 1-1 does not extend to the Estate Funds that will be available for distribution by the Trustee; and
- B. Granting the Trustee such other and further relief as is just.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH H. BALDIGA,
CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE

By his counsel,

/s/ Joseph H. Baldiga

Joseph H. Baldiga, BBO #549963
Mirick, O'Connell, DeMallie & Lougee, LLP
1800 West Park Drive, Suite 400
Westborough, MA 01581
Phone: 508.898.1501
Fax: 508.898.1502
Email: bankrupt@mirickoconnell.com

Dated: August 18, 2023

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
(CENTRAL DIVISION)

In re:

SOLAR WOLF ENERGY, INC.,

Debtor.

Chapter 7

Case No. 22-40693-CJP

NOTICE OF LIMITED OBJECTION TO CLAIM NO. 1-1 OF
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
(ON BEHALF OF ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Joseph H. Baldiga, Chapter 7 trustee (the “Trustee”) of the bankruptcy estate of Solar Wolf Energy, Inc., has filed an objection to your claim (the “Claim Objection”) in this bankruptcy case.

Your claim may be reduced, modified, or eliminated. You should read these papers carefully and discuss them with your attorney, if you have one.

If you do not want the Court to eliminate or change your claim, then on or before _____, 2023 at _____ a.m./p.m., you or your attorney must file with the United States Bankruptcy Court a written response to the Claim Objection, explaining your position, at:

Clerk’s Office
United States Bankruptcy Court
Donohue Federal Building
595 Main Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608-2076.

If you mail your response to the Court for filing, you must mail it early enough so that the Court will receive it on or before the date stated above.

You must also send a copy of your response to the Trustee as follows:

Joseph H. Baldiga, Esq.
Mirick, O’Connell, DeMallie & Lougee, LLP
1800 West Park Dr., Suite 400
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581.

If you file a response to the Claim Objection, you must also attend the hearing on the Claim Objection scheduled for _____, 2023 at _____ a.m./p.m. before the Honorable Christopher J. Panos, at the United States Bankruptcy Court located at Donohue Federal Building, Courtroom _____, 595 Main Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01608.

If you or your attorney do not take these steps, the Court may decide that you do not oppose the objection to your claim.

JOSEPH H. BALDIGA,
CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE

By his counsel,

Joseph H. Baldiga, BBO #549963
Mirick, O'Connell, DeMallie & Lougee, LLP
1800 West Park Drive, Suite 400
Westborough, MA 01581
Phone: 508.898.1501
Fax: 508.898.1502
Email: bankrupt@mirickoconnell.com

Dated: _____, 2023

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
(CENTRAL DIVISION)**

In re:

SOLAR WOLF ENERGY, INC.,

Debtor.

**Chapter 7
Case No. 22-40693-CJP**

**ORDER SUSTAINING TRUSTEE'S LIMITED OBJECTION TO CLAIM NO. 1-1 OF
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
(ON BEHALF OF ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS)**

Upon the Limited Objection to Claim No. 1-1 of Massachusetts Department of Revenue (on Behalf of Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) (the "Objection") dated August 18, 2023 filed by Joseph H. Baldiga, Chapter 7 trustee (the "Trustee") of the bankruptcy estate of the above-referenced Debtor; notice having been sufficient, it is hereby ORDERED that:

Any lien represented by Claim No. 1-1, filed by Massachusetts Department of Revenue (on behalf of Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts), does not apply to the Estate Funds (as defined in the Objection) that are available for distribution by the Trustee.

Dated: _____, 2023

Honorable Christopher J. Panos
United States Bankruptcy Court